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## ONE HUNDRED YEARS.

JOHN G. WHITTIER.

The sword was sheathed: in April's sun  
Lay green the fields by Freedom won;  
And severed sections, weary of debates,  
Joined hands at last and were United States.

O City sitting by the Sea!  
How proud the day that dawned on thee,  
When the new era, long desired, began,  
And, in its need, the hour had found the man!

One thought the cannon salvos spoke;  
The resonant bell-tower's vibrant stroke,  
The voiceful streets, the plaudit-echoing halls,  
And prayer and hymn borne heavenward from St. Paul's!

How felt the land in every part  
The strong throb of a nation's heart,  
As its great leader gave, with reverent awe,  
His pledge to Union, Liberty and Law!

That pledge the heavens above him heard,  
That vow the sleep of centuries stirred;  
In world-wide wonder listening peoples bent  
Their gaze on Freedom's great experiment.

Could it succeed? Of honor sold  
And hopes deceived all history told.  
Above the wrecks that strewed the mournful past,  
Was the long dream of ages true at last?

Thank God! the people's choice was just,  
The one man equal to his trust,  
Wise beyond lore, and without weakness good,  
Calm in the strength of flawless rectitude!

His rule of justice, order, peace,  
Made possible the world's release;  
Taught Prince and serf that power is but a trust,  
And rule, alone, which serves the ruled, is just;

That Freedom generous is, but strong  
In hate of fraud and selfish wrong,  
Pretence that turns her holy truths to lies,  
And lawless licence masking in her guise.

Land of his love! with one glad voice  
Let thy great sisterhood rejoice;  
A century's suns o'er thee have risen and set,  
And, God be praised, we are one nation yet.

And still, we trust, the years to be  
Shall prove his hope was destiny,  
Leaving our flag with all its added stars  
Unrent by faction and unstained by wars!

Lo! where with patient toil he nursed  
And trained the new-set plant at first,  
The widening branches of a stately tree  
Stretch from the sunrise to the sunset sea.

And in its broad and sheltering shade,  
Sitting with none to make afraid,  
Were we now silent, through each mighty limb,  
The winds of heaven would sing the praise of him.

Our first and best!—his ashes lie  
Beneath his own Virginian sky.  
Forgive, forget, O true and just and brave,  
The storm that swept above thy sacred grave!

For, ever in the awful strife  
And dark hours of the nation's life,

Through the fierce tumult pierced his warning word,  
Their father's voice his erring children heard!

The change for which he prayed and sought  
In that sharp agony was wrought;  
No partial interest draws its alien line  
'Twixt North and South, the cypress and the pine!

One people now, all doubt beyond,  
His name shall be our Union-bond;  
We lift our hands to Heaven, and here and now,  
Take on our lips the old Centennial vow.

For rule and trust must needs be ours;  
Chooser and chosen both are powers  
Equal in service as in rights; the claim  
Of Duty rests on each and all the same.

Then let the sovereign millions, where  
Our banner floats in sun and air,  
From the warm palm-lands to Alaska's cold,  
Repeat with us the pledge a century old!  
OAK KNOLL, DANVERS, MASS.

## THE PARIS PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE.

The Conference of the Representatives of the World's National Parliaments and Congresses, whose special object will be to promote and perpetuate Peace by urging Treaties of Arbitration between America, Great Britain, France and other countries, will meet at the *Mairie* above mentioned, on the 29th and 30th of June. Several favorable replies have already been received from Members of the Italian, Austrian, German, Swiss, Belgian and Danish Parliaments. This conference is being convened by the joint Committee of French and British Members of Parliament, who were charged with that duty at the preliminary Conference which was held in Paris on the 31st of last October. M. Frederic Passy, Deputy, is acting as Secretary for the French Deputies, and Mr. W. Randall Cremer, M. P., for the British Members. The latter gentleman well says:

"To gather together the representatives of the people to devise the best means of settling disputes by Arbitration, is a new departure in the great work we have undertaken. The task is a difficult one but we are sanguine of its ultimate success. Emperors and Kings meet, and the world—the old world—watches their movements, and waits with bated breath for their utterances. These potentates have no mandate from the people, yet they decide great issues in which the people are vitally affected. We may be too hopeful, but we believe that these International Conferences of men who have been chosen by the people to look after their best interests, will, if rightly managed, gather around them a force and influence which will make for peace."

Two important conferences, one at Rome and the other at Madrid, were held in April to consider the best way of pressing forward the International Arbitration movement. The Conference held at Rome consisted of representatives from all parts of Italy; but the conveners of the conference at Madrid hoped to have present representatives from other countries as well as from Spanish societies.